



The Metropolitan Community Church

AT MOBILE

4500 BIT AND SPUR ROAD

MOBILE, ALABAMA 36608

Rev. MARGE RAGONA

(205) 476-9142

Pastor

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1.

July 1986

GAY PRIDE __ WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

Most of us know how gay pride got started. There were a group of drag queens hanging out at a bar in New York called the Stonewall. The cops decided to hassle the queens one night -- it was hot, it was summer, and folks were just hanging out on Christopher Street. Maybe it was the heat, maybe it was the crowd, maybe the queens were just tired of being hassled, but before the evening was over, a new movement had been invented, and it wasn't a dance step.

For the first time in history, a group of gay men (and some women) decided that years of being pushed around by the police and by society had to end somewhere, and it might as well be then and there. Five other bars had been raided and closed in the weeks just prior to the Stonewall raid. The Tactical Patrol Force (riot squad) had been taken on by the gay community and told in no uncertain terms that their tactics were no longer going to work in the Village or elsewhere. Eventually, the burned out hull of what had been pretty much a neighborhood hang-out for gays would become an elegant bagle (a kind of New York Jewish hard roll which has been called "a donut dipped in cement!") restaurant which is open all night, and the gays moved on to newer, hopefully better, surroundings. But something had happened.

A year later, June 28th 1970 the first gay pride march was held to commemorate the riots of the year before. At 11:00 a.m. the crowd began gathering for a march that would step off at 2:00 p.m. Thousands of Lesbians and gay men began to congregate. Orange armbands with CSLD (Christopher Street Liberation Day) appear on gay arms -- they have been chosen by the community to be "marshals" -- those who would guarantee a peaceful march, both from outsiders wanting to harm gays, and from gays wanting to repeat the riots of the year before. The Annual Reminder" was on its way. In that year dozens of organizations had appeared -- Gay Activists Association, Gay Liberation Front, Lesbian Liberation Front, the Red Butterflies, the Homophile Youth Movement, and many, many more. Conservatives joined the Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitis, radicals and Communist men joined the Red Butterflies, counseling services had sprung up, branches of Metropolitan Community Church were starting nationwide, taking the movement to the social, political and religious communities. And now, the parade of organizations, individuals, and small social groups was about to begin.

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If you wish to advertise in this newsletter or would like an announcement placed, by any gay business or organization serving the gay community in some way, please call us. We would love to carry your ad, and enjoy telling others what you are up to, but we need you to tell us what new, what's exciting and what we can do to help. Our number is 476-9142.

Let's support each other within the community. If you need a job or have a position to fill, put it in the Newsletter. We can be the answer to each other's prayers.

SPECIAL EVENTS

GAY PRIDE WEEK CALENDAR -- June 22nd - June 29th Holidays at the bars.

SUNDAY - June 22nd 1:30-5:30 Gay pride picnic at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship grounds. Tickets \$2.50. (Covers your dinner.) Drinks \$.50. Tickets available at the bars or through MCC.
AT THE PICNIC - MCC challenges the community to Trivial Pursuit. Also Volley Ball, horseshoes, and Frisbees. Come join the fun and camaraderie.

MONDAY - Christmas at the Corral.

TUESDAY - Halloween at CPA.

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(MCC to mark the course.)
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10:00 a.m. Bike Race also on the Hank Aaron Loop.
Join in the action and strut your stuff.
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NOW games on Trooper's patio.

CSLD handed out a flyer that said: "Welcome to the First Anniversary celebration of the Gay Liberation Movement. We are united today to affirm our pride, our life-style, and our commitment to each other. Despite political and social differences we may have, we are united on this common ground: For the first time in history we are together as the homosexual community. This is the commitment that draws us together, let us not forget it throughout this, our day.

"Placing this commitment above all else, let nothing stand in our way. We are gay and proud. No one can convince us otherwise. Degrading remarks by hecklers or observers are not important enough to interfere with our goal and don't deserve a reaction...Every one of us is important. We are showing our strength and love for each other by coming here today. We are all participants in the most important gay event in history."

This is what we commemorate each Gay Pride Day -- yes, we remember Stonewall, but we commemorate the action one year later that turned that riot into a movement to better the lives of all gay people. Don't sell it out, join us in remembering and being part of the Annual Reminder of our pride, our strength and our love for each other.

BUDDY SHIPP - BARTENDER AT TROOPERS DIES

James (Buddy or Emily Turner) died May 31, 1985. He was 40 years old and had been a bartender in gay bars in Mobile and New Orleans most of his life. He was a native of Mobile, graduated from Murphy High School, and was a funny, friendly little guy who loved the University of Alabama ("Roll Tide Roll") and could usually be found in front of a TV hootin' and hollerin' if Alabama was playing football.

Buddy was fascinated with Greek language and culture (not to mention Greek men), and had, over the years, learned to speak Greek (also Spanish).

Sadly, Buddy drank himself to death in the months following his mother's death; he felt with her passing that no one would ever care about him the way she did, and he set out to join her. Members of the community buried him on Monday, June 2nd at the same cemetery where his mother was buried. He had been cremated and was buried at her head.

On Friday and Saturday, June 13th and 14th a memorial show was held at the Esquire House to raise money for a headstone for Buddy and his mother. Others wishing to contribute to that cause are asked to speak to Grace at the Esquire House.

Rest in peace, Buddy. All grief and sorrow are past and life in eternity is just beginning for you.

Another death occurred last week -- the first buddy with AIDS, a patient from U.S.A.M.C. whom the Buddy System had been asked to befriend, died at home. We thank his MCC buddy for helping the family get some needed rest and time away from their loving care of this brother. We hope others will join us in this ministry of caretaking of people with AIDS. Our MCC buddy said he got more from the experience than the man he took care of received.

...from the pastor

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But what about Mobile? There isn't any parade. There isn't even a gay newspaper to tell us what's going on. Somehow, we still seem to believe that if we're gay, the only way we can survive is to hide. The trouble with that is that even when the rest of the world is out in the open, we'll still be hiding because we really don't know any better.

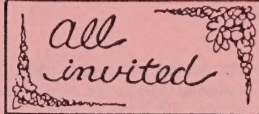
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One organization said that their bylaws won't permit them to be political. Sorry, sisters and brothers, being gay is a political act. Holding hands is a political act. Doing anything that sets us apart from the rest of the community, positive or negative, is a political act. Some political acts are for our own good. Some degrade and destroy us. Somehow we accept the political acts that are degrading, but won't exchange them for positive political acts that enlarge us, make us feel good about ourselves, and challenge the right of others to make us feel bad about ourselves.

I don't mean to rattle your cage, but if Gay Pride Week isn't political, what is? If you are not engaged in political activities this week, why not? If your organization doesn't take a political stance one week a year, you're just having another party. The liturgy for Passover, a celebration of the Jewish people's liberation from slavery in Egypt, has a quote: "If not now when? If not me who?" No one can free us except ourselves. If not now, when? If not you, who?

Let's not forget how gay pride got started (see lead story, page 1), and how very political it is and was from the beginning. Many cities have seen great changes. My home city, New York, took 15 years for the City Council to pass Gay Rights legislation, and I was there in 1973 and 1974 when we failed to pass it. But others were there when I left, and when they left, and someone kept the flag flying and this year Gay Rights became a reality in New York. Someone has to start the ball rolling, others have to keep it going, and finally -- even in Mobile -- the law and the mentality of the city will change. The letter of Paul says to the Ephesians, "Don't quench the spirit." We at MCC say to our community the same thing. Don't quench the spirit of Gay Pride, keep it growing and touching more lives, until finally our pride tells our neighbors that we are here to stay, that we are a productive part of the community (and maybe we'll even become that!), and that as good gay people, we have something to offer. Come out in the sunshine, gay people of Mobile, and join us for the picnic -- it may seem like a little thing -- but it's a start. If not now, when? If not you and I, who?

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ST. PETER'S REACHES OUT TO HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

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A THOUGHT FOR GAY PRIDE WEEK

This is a story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Is the point made. Gay Pride Week takes Everybody working together, so that next year we can have a community celebration that we will all be proud of.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP MCC MOBILE GROW?

1. Tell someone about us who doesn't know we're here. Every week someone says to me, "I didn't know there was an MCC in Mobile." Tell them.
2. Call people regularly who are absent from church, who are having problems, and who might be interested in getting into the church. Everyone likes to be told they're missed.
3. Take some of our newsletters or business cards to one of the bars and leave them for people to pick up. One place for the cards is the rest rooms, people seem to pick up all sorts of things there. Thank the bars for letting us put out our publicity.
4. Bring someone to church with you on Sunday. A lot of people would come but don't like to go anywhere alone the first time. Ask someone to come with you. *Gay Pride* is a good time to come to church for the first time, isn't it?
5. Bring someone to the Rap Group. Even if people "aren't into church," they would probably enjoy the informality of the raps, and the honesty of gay people talking about how it really is for them.
6. Be sure YOU welcome all new visitors who come to church for the first time and make them feel at home and want to return. MCC Mobile is full of real warm and friendly people, don't be afraid to let people see that.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH:

I ask not for a faith that will move a mountain, but for a faith that will somehow move me.

SOCIETY

MISS BETTY - OWNER
51 S. CONCEPTION ST.
433-9141

SUN. - THURS. 10 A. M. - 2 A. M.
FRI. - SAT. OPEN 24 HOURS

476-9142

Gay
Help-line



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

ALL GAY PRIDE WEEK
from the

Esquire House

13 S. Joachim St.
433-9175

Mon-Fri 9:30 am - till
Saturday 9:30 am - 2:00 am



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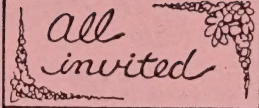
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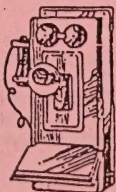
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If you wish to advertise in this newsletter or would like an announcement placed, by any gay business or organization serving the gay community in some way, please call us. We would love to carry your ad, and enjoy telling others what you are up to, but we need you to tell us what new, what's exciting and what we can do to help. Our number is 476-9142.

Let's support each other within the community. If you need a job or have a position to fill, put it in the Newsletter. We can be the answer to each other's prayers.

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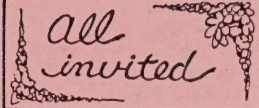
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MOBILE AIDS FUND

At this count, the Mobile Aids Fund has over \$1200 available for people with AIDS who need money to meet expenses, buy medicine, or pay their rent. If you know someone with AIDS who has a real need, please call MCC or the Helpline and we will do what we can to put them in touch with the people who are in a position to allocate the funds. The Mobile Aids Fund has applied for a charter as a public charity in the State of Alabama, and many individuals and organizations in the Mobile area are directing their contributions to the MAF as a more structured way to get the money to where the need is. If you want to make a contribution to the MAF, write out your check that way and hand it to your favorite bartender, telling him it's for the fund or if you are MCC-affiliated, put it in the offering plate, we'll see that it gets to the right place.

ST. PETER'S REACHES OUT TO HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

This summer St. Peter's Lutheran Church will be providing a summer camp experience for handicapped individuals in the Mobile area. The camp will provide snacks (at a small cost to the individual), bowling, swimming, fishing, picnicing, movies and field trips for the people who will take part in the program. For more information call St. Peter's if you have a friend or relative who needs this kind of care.

A THOUGHT FOR GAY PRIDE WEEK

This is a story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Is the point made. Gay Week takes Everybody working together, so that next year we will have a celebration that we will all be proud of.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP MCC MOBILE GROW?

1. Tell someone about us who doesn't know we're here. Every week someone says to me, "I didn't know there was an MCC in Mobile." Tell them.
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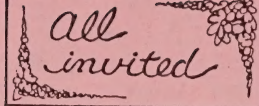
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MCC would like to thank everyone who had a part in helping to restore the air conditioning system at St. Peter's. We thank all of you for helping purchase and paying for the installation of same in the air conditioning system. MCC raised \$450.00 in one day for this project.

MOBILE AIDS FUND

At this count, the Mobile Aids Fund has over \$1200 available for people with AIDS who need money to meet expenses, buy medicine, or pay their rent. If you know someone with AIDS who has a real need, please call MCC or the Helpline and we will do what we can to put them in touch with the people who are in a position to allocate the funds. The Mobile Aids Fund has applied for a charter as a public charity in the State of Alabama, and many individuals and organizations in the Mobile area are directing their contributions to the MAF as a more structured way to get the money to where the need is. If you want to make a contribution to the MAF, write out your check that way and hand it to your favorite bartender, telling him it's for the fund or if you are MCC-affiliated, put it in the offering plate, we'll see that it gets to the right place.

ST. PETER'S REACHES OUT TO HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

This summer St. Peter's Lutheran Church will be providing a summer camp experience for handicapped individuals in the Mobile area. The camp will provide snacks (at a small cost to the individual), bowling, swimming, fishing, picnicing, movies and field trips for the people who will take part in the program. For more information call St. Peter's if you have a friend or relative who needs this kind of care.

A THOUGHT FOR GAY PRIDE WEEK

This is a story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Is the point that Gay Pride Week takes Everybody working together, so that next year we can have a community celebration that we can all be proud of.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP MCC MOBILE GROW?

1. Tell someone about us who doesn't know we're here. Every week someone says to me, "I didn't know there was an MCC in Mobile." Tell them.
2. Call people regularly who are absent from church, who are having problems, and who might be interested in getting into the church. Everyone likes to be told they're missed.
3. Take some of our newsletters or business cards to one of the bars and leave them for people to pick up. One place for the cards is the rest rooms, people seem to pick up all sorts of things there. Thank the bars for letting us put out our publicity.
4. Bring someone to church with you on Sunday. A lot of people would come but don't like to go anywhere alone the first time. Ask someone to come with you. ~~Gay Pride~~ is a good time to come to church for the first time, isn't it?
5. Bring someone to the Rap Group. Even if people "aren't into church," they would probably enjoy the informality of the raps, and the honesty of gay people talking about how it really is for them.
6. Be sure YOU welcome all new visitors who come to church for the first time and make them feel at home and want to return. MCC Mobile is full of real warm and friendly people, don't be afraid to let people see that.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH:

I ask not for a faith that will move a mountain, but for a faith that will somehow move me.

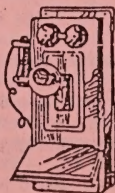
SOCIETY

MISS BETTY - OWNER
51 S. CONCEPTION ST.
433-9141

SUN. - THURS. 10 A. M. - 2 A. M.
FRI. - SAT. OPEN 24 HOURS

476-9142

Gay
Help-line



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

ALL GAY PRIDE WEEK
from the

Esquire House

13 S. Joachim St.
433-9175

Mon-Fri 9:30 am - till
Saturday 9:30 am - 2:00 am



The Metropolitan Community Church

AT MOBILE

4500 BIT AND SPUR ROAD

MOBILE, ALABAMA 36608

Rev. MARGE RAGONA

(205) 476-9142

Pastor

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1.

July 1986

GAY PRIDE ___ WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

Most of us know how gay pride got started. There were a group of drag queens hanging out at a bar in New York called the Stonewall. The cops decided to hassle the queens one night -- it was hot, it was summer, and folks were just hanging out on Christopher Street. Maybe it was the heat, maybe it was the crowd, maybe the queens were just tired of being hassled, but before the evening was over, a new movement had been invented, and it wasn't a dance step.

For the first time in history, a group of gay men (and some women) decided that years of being pushed around by the police and by society had to end somewhere, and it might as well be then and there. Five other bars had been raided and closed in the weeks just prior to the Stonewall raid. The Tactical Patrol Force (riot squad) had been taken on by the gay community and told in no uncertain terms that their tactics were no longer going to work in the Village or elsewhere. Eventually, the burned out hull of what had been pretty much a neighborhood hang-out for gays would become an elegant bagle (a kind of New York Jewish hard roll which has been called "a donut dipped in cement!") restaurant which is open all night, and the gays moved on to newer, hopefully better, surroundings. But something had happened.

A year later, June 28th 1970 the first gay pride march was held to commemorate the riots of the year before. At 11:00 a.m. the crowd began gathering for a march that would step off at 2:00 p.m. Thousands of Lesbians and gay men began to congregate. Orange armbands with CSLD (Christopher Street Liberation Day) appear on gay arms -- they have been chosen by the community to be "marshals" -- those who would guarantee a peaceful march, both from outsiders wanting to harm gays, and from gays wanting to repeat the riots of the year before. The "Annual Reminder" was on its way. In that year dozens of organizations had appeared -- Gay Activists Association, Gay Liberation Front, Lesbian Liberation Front, the Red Butterflies, the Homophile Youth Movement, and many, many more. Conservatives joined the Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitis, radicals and Communist men joined the Red Butterflies, counseling services had sprung up, branches of Metropolitan Community Church were starting nationwide, taking the movement to the social, political and religious communities. And now, the parade of organizations, individuals, and small social groups was about to begin.

At 2:10 the shout began, "Gimme a 'G' " "Gimme an 'A'" "Gimme a 'Y'" -- Whadda we want? GAY POWER! When do we want it? NOW!"

Continued on Page 3

FROM THE EDITOR--

With this issue we are changing our advertising policy. Up until now we have gone out and chased people down to get them to advertise with us. It took a lot of time and energy on the part of church members who are busy, have little spare time, and who mostly didn't want to spend it going back two and three times to the same people and places for ads and community notes. We decided it was better for us to offer the space to you, and if you want it, please call us with your news, and please mail us a check for your ad. A business card ad is \$10.00, quarter page is \$25.00 and half page is \$50.00. It's tax deductible and it's good business. Want Ads are \$1.00 a line.

If you wish to advertise in this newsletter or would like an announcement placed, by any gay business or organization serving the gay community in some way, please call us. We would love to carry your ad, and enjoy telling others what you are up to, but we need you to tell us what new, what's exciting and what we can do to help. Our number is 476-9142.

Let's support each other within the community. If you need a job or have a position to fill, put it in the Newsletter. We can be the answer to each other's prayers.

SPECIAL EVENTS

GAY PRIDE WEEK CALENDAR -- June 22nd - June 29th Holidays at the bars.

SUNDAY - June 22nd 1:30-5:30 Gay pride picnic at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship grounds. Tickets \$2.50. (Covers your dinner.) Drinks \$.50. Tickets available at the bars or through MCC.

AT THE PICNIC - MCC challenges the community to Trivial Pursuit. Also Volley Ball, horseshoes, and Frisbees. Come join the fun and camaradery.

MONDAY - Christmas at the Corral.

TUESDAY - Halloween at CPA.

WEDNESDAY- AIDS Vigil at Bienville Square - MCC and friends begin a prayer vigil for all people with AIDS. Bring a candle and the name of someone who should be remembered.

Valentine's Day at Society.

THURSDAY: July 4th at Troopers.

FRIDAY - New Year's Eve at Esquire .

SATURDAY - Osiris' Monte Carlo Night at Troopers.

SUNDAY June 29th - Mardi Gras Carnival
8:30 a.m. Registration for Fun Run and Bike Race at Troopers.
(MCC to mark the course.)

9:00 a.m. Fun Run around Hank Aaron Loop.

10:00 a.m. Bike Race also on the Hank Aaron Loop.
Join in the action and strut your stuff.

Scavenger Hunt at Society.
NOW games on Trooper's patio.

GAY PRIDE - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT (Continued from page 1)

CSLD handed out a flyer that said: "Welcome to the First Anniversary celebration of the Gay Liberation Movement. We are united today to affirm our pride, our life-style, and our commitment to each other. Despite political and social differences we may have, we are united on this common ground: For the first time in history we are together as the homosexual community. This is the commitment that draws us together, let us not forget it throughout this, our day.

"Placing this commitment above all else, let nothing stand in our way. We are gay and proud. No one can convince us otherwise. Degrading remarks by hecklers or observers are not important enough to interfere with our goal and don't deserve a reaction...Every one of us is important. We are showing our strength and love for each other by coming here today. We are all participants in the most important gay event in history."

This is what we commemorate each Gay Pride Day -- yes, we remember Stonewall, but we commemorate the action one year later that turned that riot into a movement to better the lives of all gay people. Don't sell it out, join us in remembering and being part of the Annual Reminder of our pride, our strength and our love for each other.

BUDDY SHIPP - BARTENDER AT TROOPERS DIES

James (Buddy or Emily Turner) died May 31, 1985. He was 40 years old and had been a bartender in gay bars in Mobile and New Orleans most of his life. He was a native of Mobile, graduated from Murphy High School, and was a funny, friendly little guy who loved the University of Alabama ("Roll Tide Roll) and could usually be found in front of a TV hootin' and hollerin' if Alabama was playing football.

Buddy was fascinated with Greek language and culture (not to mention Greek men), and had, over the years, learned to speak Greek (also Spanish).

Sadly, Buddy drank himself to death in the months following his mother's death; he felt with her passing that no one would ever care about him the way she did, and he set out to join her. Members of the community buried him on Monday, June 2nd at the same cemetery where his mother was buried. He had been cremated and was buried at her head.

On Friday and Saturday, June 13th and 14th a memorial show was held at the Esquire House to raise money for a headstone for Buddy and his mother. Others wishing to contribute to that cause are asked to speak to Grace at the Esquire House.

Rest in peace, Buddy. All grief and sorrow are past and life in eternity is just beginning for you.

Another death occurred last week -- the first buddy with AIDS, a patient from U.S.A.M.C. whom the Buddy System had been asked to befriend, died at home. We thank his MCC buddy for helping the family get some needed rest and time away from their loving care of this brother. We hope others will join us in this ministry of caretaking of people with AIDS. Our MCC buddy said he got more from the experience than the man he took care of received.

...from the pastor

The excitement of Gay Pride Week is drawing close -- and if you pick up gay newspapers from other cities you will see the conferences, meetings, dinners, special bar activities, and parade news that tells us in the gay community that "Hey, it's okay to be me. It's okay to be gay."

But what about Mobile? There isn't any parade. There isn't even a gay newspaper to tell us what's going on. Somehow, we still seem to believe that if we're gay, the only way we can survive is to hide. The trouble with that is that even when the rest of the world is out in the open, we'll still be hiding because we really don't know any better.

The Gay Pride Planning Committee wanted an all day picnic away from the down-town area which hems us in and where we are "allowed" to be gay, but which really doesn't give us a chance to be more than just drinking buddies. Somehow we wound up with four or five hours of daylight in which to "do our thing," and then it was back to downtown. We at MCC had some ideas about some open air, outdoor fun for a couple of occasions, plus a more serious activity, but there seemed to be an attitude that said "Gay Pride belongs just downtown." I think we're wrong. Gay pride belongs anywhere we want to take it -- to a public park, to the U-U church yard, to the streets and to the main avenues. We are tax-paying citizens and we live here in Mobile, too. Most of us have jobs and we support city services like every other person who lives and works in Mobile.

One organization said that their bylaws won't permit them to be political. Sorry, sisters and brothers, being gay is a political act. Holding hands is a political act. Doing anything that sets us apart from the rest of the community, positive or negative, is a political act. Some political acts are for our own good. Some degrade and destroy us. Somehow we accept the political acts that are degrading, but won't exchange them for positive political acts that enlarge us, make us feel good about ourselves, and challenge the right of others to make us feel bad about ourselves.

I don't mean to rattle your cage, but if Gay Pride Week isn't political, what is? If you are not engaged in political activities this week, why not? If your organization doesn't take a political stance one week a year, you're just having another party. The liturgy for Passover, a celebration of the Jewish people's liberation from slavery in Egypt, has a quote: "If not now when? If not me who?" No one can free us except ourselves. If not now, when? If not you, who?

Let's not forget how gay pride got started (see lead story, page 1), and how very political it is and was from the beginning. Many cities have seen great changes. My home city, New York, took 15 years for the City Council to pass Gay Rights legislation, and I was there in 1973 and 1974 when we failed to pass it. But others were there when I left, and when they left, and someone kept the flag flying and this year Gay Rights became a reality in New York. Someone has to start the ball rolling, others have to keep it going, and finally -- even in Mobile -- the law and the mentality of the city will change. The letter of Paul say to the Ephesians, "Don't quench the spirit." We at MCC say to our community the same thing. Don't quench the spirit of Gay Pride, keep it growing and touching more lives, until finally our pride tells our neighbors that we are here to stay, that we are a productive part of the community (and maybe we'll even become that!), and that as good gay people, we have something to offer. Come out in the sunshine, gay people of Mobile, and join us for the picnic -- it may seem like a little thing -- but it's a start. If not now, when? If not you and I, who?

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Court: Homosexual conduct not constitutionally protected

By RICHARD CARELLI
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, upholding a Georgia sodomy law by a 5-4 vote, ruled Monday that consenting adults have no constitutional right to private homosexual conduct.

The ruling was limited to "consensual homosexual sodomy," but nothing in its sweep of language cast doubt on the constitutionality of state laws that also make heterosexual sodomy a crime, even when performed by married couples.

"The proposition that any kind of private sexual conduct between consenting adults is constitutionally insulated from state proscription is unsupportable," Justice Byron R. White wrote for the court.

The Georgia law, which White said is similar to those in half the states, defines sodomy as "any sexual act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another."

Court

Continued From Page 1

of Appeals, but that ruling was reversed Monday.

"Plainly enough, otherwise illegal conduct is not always immunized whenever it occurs in the home," White said. "It would be difficult... to limit the claimed right of homosexual conduct while leaving exposed to prosecution adultery, incest and other sexual crimes even though they are committed in the home."

The court swept aside arguments that the Georgia law has no rational basis without explicitly ruling that it is rational.

"Law is constantly based on notions of morality," White said, "and if all laws representing essentially moral choices are to be invalidated... the courts will be very busy indeed."

White was joined by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Justices Lewis F. Powell, William H. Rehnquist and Sandra Day O'Connor.

Powell wrote separately that the heavy penalty attached to violations of the state's sodomy law could represent unconstitutional "cruel and unusual punishment" because it is the same punishment meted out to convicted arsonists and robbers.

Justices Harry A. Blackmun, William J. Brennan, Thurgood Marshall and John Paul Stevens dissented.

Writing for the four, Blackmun called the decision "revolting."

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS GEORGIA SODOMY LAWS

As you can see from the articles reprinted from the Mobile Register concerning the Supreme Court decision, the home of the free and the brave now provides less freedom and requires more bravery on the part of gay people. We thought it might be educational to tell you something about the Supreme Court, so that if you are a voter (and if you're not, why not?) you can prepare yourself to instruct your Senator how to vote for you.

There are 9 Justices on the Supreme Court. They are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. The Justices' vote in the sodomy decision is listed below:

FOR

Chief Justice Burger
Justice White
Justice Powell
Justice Rehnquist
Justice O'Connor

PRESIDENT APPOINTING

Nixon
Kennedy
Nixon
Nixon
Reagan

PARTY

Republican
Democrat
Republican
Republican
Republican

VOTING RECORD

Center
Center
Center
Conservative
Conservative

European papers rap U.S. sodomy ruling

LONDON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision to uphold Georgia's law against sodomy prompted some scathing editorial comment in European newspapers.

Sweden's *Aftonbladet* linked the ruling with President Reagan's appointment of what the paper called "extreme right-wing judges" to the court.

"It is absurd to hold forth on a United States ruled by conservatives as an example of freedom, when freedom does not exist in the most private of affairs," said the daily.

With the exception of Ireland, Western European countries have enacted no laws against homosexual acts, but few countries explicitly ban discrimination against homosexuals in such areas as jobs and housing.

In the past 25 years, several European nations repealed old laws forbidding homosexual relations, among them Britain, West Germany, Norway and Spain. Most countries now permit any sexual act between consenting people in private. The age of consent ranges from 16 in Italy and Denmark to 21 in Britain.

French law forbids adults to engage in homosexual relations with anyone under the age of 18, but permits two people between the ages of 15 and 18 to have homosexual relations as long as both consent and there is no violence.

Sweden's Ministry of Social Affairs is drafting a bill expected to give homosexual live-in couples the same legal status as unmarried heterosexual couples, who have virtually the same rights as married couples.

An Associated Press sampling of Europe showed that only Switzerland and Norway explicitly ban discrimination against homosexuals. Denmark, like Sweden, is drafting legislation to protect homosexuals' rights in employment and housing.

Greek law permits homosexual relations, and authorities are generally tolerant of homosexuality. Gay organizations in Athens publish two magazines, demonstrate in support of homosexual prostitutes and hold an annual transvestite beauty contest.

The deadly disease AIDS has hit Europe, provoking some outcry against homosexuality. But no country has taken legal steps restricting the behavior of homosexuals.

AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, is transmitted through sexual contact or blood. It is an affliction in which a virus attacks the body's immune system, leaving victims susceptible to infections and cancers. In the United States and Europe, AIDS has so far been largely confined to male homosexuals, hemophiliacs and intravenous drug abusers.

In 1967, Britain amended its Sexual Offenses Act to prohibit homosexual relations between consenting males in private. British law had never banned lesbian relations.

For centuries until 1859, the death penalty was used to deter sodomy in Britain.

In Ireland, which on June 26 affirmed its adherence to Roman Catholic tenets by voting against divorce in a referendum, homosexual acts are prohibited under laws enacted in 1961 and 1965 during British rule. Convicted offenders could face a life sentence.

A book called "Out For Ourselves," published by the Dublin Lesbian And Gay Collective, comments: "The laws have such wide parameters that they are rarely enforced. But they do provide a backdrop of oppression which affects the way we are treated in our daily lives by the authorities and individuals."

In Italy, the secretary of a homosexual group, who insisted on anonymity, said no specific laws exist there against homosexuality, and even in the Fascist period homosexuals were not prosecuted, though they were harassed.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS GEORGIA SODOMY LAWS

AGAINST

Justice Blackmun
Justice Brennan
Justice Marshall
Justice Stevens

Nixon
Eisenhower
Johnson
Ford

Republican
Republican
Democrat
Republican
Center

As you can see from the above, the Court is primarily Republican and mainly from the Center to the Conservative side. Interestingly enough, one Democrat usually votes fairly conservatively, and one Republican votes as a liberal, so it isn't purely a matter of partisan politics. As a whole, though, the Court is basically conservative as Supreme Courts go. Five of the Justices are aging — Marshall 77, Brennan 80, Blackmun 77, Powell 78, and Burger 78. Burger has already resigned as Chief Justice and will be replaced by Rehnquist, the most conservative member of the Court, who is only 61. Burger will probably be replaced by another very conservative judge, Antonin Scalia, age 50. The only two liberals are in the aging group, and if they were to die or retire in the next 25 years, President Reagan has vowed to replace them with young ultra-conservatives. Since Supreme Court judges are appointed for life, to further load the Court with ultra-conservatives would have an impact on our lives for at least the next 25 years — meaning that there would probably be no recourse to the Supreme Court, as there was for Sgt. Matlovich, Lt. Berg, and other famous gay Supreme Court appeals. Unless a liberal Republican or a Democrat is elected in 1988, we can foreseeably have an entirely conservative Court, and Justice Thurgood Marshall (the only Black on the Court) is so aware of this that he has vowed to remain on the Court as long as he lives, just so the President cannot appoint a conservative in his stead.

While we make no guarantees that writing your Senator will change his mind and to encourage him to vote as you instruct him, it might be interesting for us to attempt to sway his vote. Senators are convinced that if only 2 or 3 people write them on an issue, they represent far more than their numbers would indicate. Most Senators get very little issue-related mail (most letters are asking them for help). In this case, you do not have to identify yourself as gay, or even that you are interested in this decision, all you need do is remind your Senator that you are interested in fair-play and balance on the Court, ask him to vote against Rehnquist's appointment as Chief Justice because he is too far to the conservative side, and ask him not to vote for Scalia for the same reason. Invite him to help find a more representative Justice, in the interest of broadening the court's stance. In order to write your Senator, you write:

The Honorable Jeremiah Denton
Senator, State of Alabama
U.S. Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

or
3280 Dauphin Street
Mobile, Ala.

The Honorable Howell Heflin
Senator, State of Alabama
U.S. Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

or
113 St. Joseph Street
Mobile, Ala.

You might also remind these Senators to reconsider their votes for Daniel Panton, nominee for the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, who has had very poor rating by the American Bar Association on the basis of his prior record. One vote could take Panton out of the running, since the vote was 48-46 in favor of confirmation, and Senator Byrd of West Virginia has asked for a revote on this man, since he is of such poor caliber.

VOTE-----VOTE-----VOTE-----VOTE

TALKING LIBERATION

Sometimes we find that people don't know what we're talking about when we used terms that have currency in the Gay Community; for all of you who have asked we supply this glossary.

HOMOSEXUAL LESBIAN:

To have an erotic preference for members of one's own sex. Being woman-identified in one's affectional, sexual and social preferences, if one is a woman.

CLOSET:

A small or enclosed room used primarily for storage, unfortunately used by many as a place of hiding from the realities of life; closetedness implies an attempt to conceal one's gayness from the world.

GAY:

Being "gay" means having freed oneself of misgivings over being homosexual; it means being free to investigate one's preferences and desires in sexual roles as one chooses without having to justify or account for it. (Weinberg)

GAY IDENTITY:

A positive perception of oneself as a homosexual free of shame, guilt, regret and free of the need for self-inquisition and then joining with other gay people to form community.

GAY PRIDE:

Positive gay identification; used by gay activists to describe the political, social, economic and personal changes which gay people have made in themselves and society since the late 1960's.

HOMOPHOBIA:

A word coined by George Weinberg (Society and the Healthy Homosexual) for prejudice against homosexuals, defined as "the dread of being in close quarters with homosexuals, and in the case of homosexuals themselves, self-loathing. Also, the revulsion toward homosexuals and often the desire to inflict punishment as retribution."

HOMOPHOBIC:

Dr. Alice Fennel, Columbia University, has found that most homophobes (see above definition) are largely white, predominantly male, mostly married, largely lower class, most often parents, and often violent. This violence tends to be directed toward those targets most available, obvious, and least able to defend themselves.

HOMOSEXUAL OPPRESSION:

Three layers of penalty operate in society's homophobic oppression: 1. The overt penalties such as being fired from employment, imprisoned, expelled from family, church, housing, or being confined and/or treated as mentally ill. 2. The constant insecurity of knowing that overt penalties may be invoked. These penalties often apply only until the hiding is over. Their real cause is to keep people hiding what homophobes do not choose to deal with or which frighten them. 3. The repression of awareness of the homosexual parts of oneself and the substitution of a facade of heterosexuality in self and society. (Marcia Geyer: Homophobia and Human Rights.)

OPPRESSION SICKNESS:

The internalization of homophobic attitudes by gay/lesbian people and the embodiment of those negative feelings in self-destructive acts, neurotic and self-defeating behavior (suicide, alcoholism, drug-abuse, etc.) and lateral hostility toward gay/lesbian people and other oppressed groups.

LATERAL OPPRESSION:

The invoking of penalties, repression and sanctions by one oppressed group against another oppressed group; i.e. repression of women by gay men, blacks by gays, women by black men, people of color by white women, etc.

Lifelines

"ON THE ROAD AGAIN" #3

Jan Gralley



Gralley, Jr.

BACK TO EGYPT

TALKING LIBERATION (Continued)

A form of gay oppression, which takes its origin from an Eastern European term which referred to quarters inhabited by Jews by requirement and enforcement, now used for any section of a city in which an oppressed group is confined (either by regulation or by social pressure); often a neglected and run down section which oppressed people take over as their own and occupy so that the community reflects their lifestyle, but often an enforced segregation from the larger society.

GENTRIFICATION:

The willing take-over of a run-down area by middle and upper class people; reclaiming a slum area -- unfortunately often pushing out poorer inhabitants by escalating property values beyond their ability to afford housing in the area. However, gays have often been able to reclaim abandoned areas in a positive way that does not damage other oppressed people. (Suggestion for downtown Mobile, anyone??)

THE HOLOCAUST:

(Biblical) A burnt offering. Used of the Hitler regime's annihilation of 6,000,000 Jews, Gypsies, Gays, political dissidents and other oppressed people whom Hitler destroyed in a wide-ranging rampage of personal hatred of people he identified as "other" or "different." The demand for full opportunity for integration (whether we take it or not) of our whole selves into the large society along the lines of our choosing and talents, and for the same privileges and protections to be extended to the relationships, organizations, and institutions of gay and lesbian people as are extended to the heterosexual's relationships, organizations, and institutions. (Geyer)

HOMOPHILE:

A lover of gay people; the desire to be with, enjoy the association with gay/lesbian people in a positive environment.

HOMOPHILE MOVEMENT:

Used especially of the early Gay Rights Movement, dating as early as 1897 in the U.S. and especially in the 1920's in Germany, France and Scandinavian countries -- predates Stonewall by many years. (Sometimes called Feminism). In 1838, Sarah Moore Grimké, later to be one of the leading abolitionists with Angelina Grimké Weld, said, "I ask no favors for my sex, all I ask of my brethren is that they take their feet from off our necks." The social, civil, religious, and sexual equality of women; social justice and freedom from fear for all women. Many lesbians feel that their issues are best addressed by women's liberation.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION:

A person who accepts personal responsibility for making changes in a social group based upon a philosophy of economic, social, moral and political awareness and then acting upon those beliefs.

ACTIVIST:

A person who accepts personal responsibility for making changes in a social group based upon a philosophy of economic, social, moral and political awareness and then acting upon those beliefs.

IN MEMORIAM

RON ALLEN DIES OF AIDS

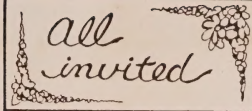
Many in our community who were present at the Aids Seminar held in May at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will remember Ron Allen, the young Black man who had so courageously represented people with AIDS in Mobile on television and in the news media. Ron died, as he had lived, with quiet courage. We mourn his passing and offer our comfort to his family.

New Officers

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Through resignations of previous Board members due to job and time conflicts, the Board met and chose Joe T. and Carol D. to serve out the terms of Ron and Mike. Joe is our new clerk and Carol has responsibility for the newsletter. Congratulations and we welcome you to your new responsibilities.

RAP SERIES BEGINS AGAIN



A new Rap Series will begin Tuesday, July 8th. The topics will pertain, as always to the general theme of "THE GAY EXPERIENCE: RULES, ROLES and RELATIONSHIPS." Call the helpline if you need to know the topic of the week.

Bible Study is held every Wednesday evening and will resume July 9th. Both the rap and the Bible Study are held at the Pastor's residence at 8:00 p.m.

MCC worship services are held on Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. at 4500 Bit and Spur Road. Call 476-9142 for more information.

Two other churches in the area welcome gay participation: St. Peter's Lutheran Church supports and welcomes gays at all its activities, as does the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship. St. Peter's worship is at 10:15 a.m., Sunday School at 9:00. The UU's meet at 10:30 a.m. Call the Helpline if you are interested in either church, we'll give you directions.

MCC would like to thank everyone who had a part in helping to restore the air conditioning system at St. Peter's. We thank all of you for helping purchase and paying for the installation of same in the air conditioning system. MCC raised \$450.00 on one day for this project.

MOBILE AIDS FUND

At this count, the Mobile Aids Fund has over \$1200 available for people with AIDS who need money to meet expenses, buy medicine, or pay their rent. If you know someone with AIDS who has a real need, please call MCC or the Helpline and we will do what we can to put them in touch with the people who are in a position to allocate the funds. The Mobile Aids Fund has applied for a charter as a public charity in the State of Alabama, and many individuals and organizations in the Mobile area are directing their contributions to the MAF as a more structured way to get the money to where the need is. If you want to make a contribution to the MAF, write out your check that way and hand it to your favorite bartender, telling him it's for the fund or if you are MCC-affiliated, put it in the offering plate, we'll see that it gets to the right place.

ST. PETER'S REACHES OUT TO HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

This summer St. Peter's Lutheran Church will be providing a summer camp experience for handicapped individuals in the Mobile area. The camp will provide snacks (at a small cost to the individual), bowling, swimming, fishing, picnicing, movies and field trips for the people who will take part in the program. For more information call St. Peter's if you have a friend or relative who needs this kind of care.

A THOUGHT FOR GAY PRIDE WEEK

This is a story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Is the point made. Gay Pride Week takes Everybody working together, so that next year we will have a community celebration that we will all be proud of.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP MCC MOBILE GROW?

1. Tell someone about us who doesn't know we're here. Every week someone says to me, "I didn't know there was an MCC in Mobile." Tell them.
2. Call people regularly who are absent from church, who are having problems, and who might be interested in getting into the church. Everyone likes to be told they're missed.
3. Take some of our newsletters or business cards to one of the bars and leave them for people to pick up. One place for the cards is the rest rooms, people seem to pick up all sorts of things there. Thank the bars for letting us put out our publicity.
4. Bring someone to church with you on Sunday. A lot of people would come but don't like to go anywhere alone the first time. Ask someone to come with you. *Gay Pride* is a good time to come to church for the first time, isn't it?
5. Bring someone to the Rap Group. Even if people "aren't into church," they would probably enjoy the informality of the raps, and the honesty of gay people talking about how it really is for them.
6. Be sure YOU welcome all new visitors who come to church for the first time and make them feel at home and want to return. MCC Mobile is full of real warm and friendly people, don't be afraid to let people see that.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH:

I ask not for a faith that will move a mountain, but for a faith that will somehow move me.

SOCIETY

MISS BETTY - OWNER
51 S. CONCEPTION ST.
433-9141

SUN. - THURS. 10 A. M. - 2 A. M.
FRI. - SAT. OPEN 24 HOURS

476-9142

Gay
Help-line



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

ALL GAY PRIDE WEEK
from the

Esquire House

13 S. Joachim St.
433-9175

Mon-Fri 9:30 am - till
Saturday 9:30 am - 2:00 am